

REMARKS

Claims 18 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1, 9-11, 15-27, and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Short et al in view of Sitka et al and Hilton. Claims 5-7 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Short et al in view of Sitka et al, Hilton, and Official Notice as supported by Sinha et al and Cesmli et al. Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Short et al in view of Hilton. Claims 22-24 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the present amendments and for the following reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of record and allow the present application to issue.

With regard to the indefiniteness of claims 18 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, claim 18 has been amended herein to delete the offending words "said multiples of". Claim 28 has been canceled by way of the present amendment, and so no longer presents an issue.

In consideration of the Examiner's identification of patentable subject matter with regard to claims 22-24, as identified in paragraph 37 on page 18 of the outstanding office action, the features of claim 22 have herein been incorporated into independent claim 18, from which claim 22 depended. Claim 22 has been canceled accordingly. In consideration thereof, allowance of claim 18 and claims 19-21 and 23-27 dependent therefrom is respectfully requested.

New independent claim 33 uses the language of currently amended claim 18, and incorporates the language of patentable claim 23 directly therein. Dependent claims 34-40 are reproductions of dependent claims 19-21 and 24-27. In consideration thereof, allowance of new claims 33-40 is respectfully requested.

New independent claim 41 uses the language of currently amended claim 18, and incorporates the language of patentable claim 24 directly therein. Dependent claims 42-47 are reproductions of dependent claims 19-21 and 25-27. In consideration thereof, allowance of new claims 41-47 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-17, and 28-32 have additionally been canceled, but without any admissions or acquiescence with regard to the rejections, or prejudice to consideration of these claims in any related

or subsequently filed applications. Instead, these claims are being canceled simply to facilitate advancement of the present application to issuance.

No new matter has been introduced in the present amendment. In view of the Examiner's indications of allowability of dependent claims 22-24 and the present amendment which restates these claims in independent form, it appears that all matters have been addressed satisfactorily, and that the case is now in condition for a complete allowance; and the same is respectfully urged.

However, if the Examiner has any comments or questions, or has any suggestions as per MPEP 707.07 (d) and (j), for putting the case in condition for final allowance, he is respectfully urged to contact the attorney of record, Mr. Leonard Bloom, at 410-769-6144, so that an expeditions resolution may be effected and the case passed to issue promptly.

Respectfully Submitted,

 12/23/09

Leonard Bloom

Reg. No. 18,369

Attorney for Applicants